

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PARIS 12758 01 OF 02 191723Z

ACTION OES-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SOE-02 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00

COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 DOE-15 H-02 INR-10 INT-05

L-03 NSAE-00 OMB-01 PM-05 SP-02 SS-15 STR-07

TRSE-00 ACDA-12 CEQ-01 EPA-04 IO-14 NSF-02

NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 /134 W

-----083097 191735Z /45

O 191807Z APR 78

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0328

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 12758

DEPT PASS NOAA FOR ADMINISTRATORS RICHARD FRANK AND
STEVEN ANASTASION; EPA FOR ADMINISTRATOR DOUGLAS COSTLE

E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: PLOS SENV EWWT ENERG FR

SUBJ: AMOCO CADIZ: CNEXO CONSIDERS LONG TERM

SCIENTIFIC STUDY OF ECOLOGICAL IMPACT

1. CNEXO IS CURRENTLY GIVING CAREFUL CONSIDERATION TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF A LONG TERM SCIENTIFIC INVESTIGATION OF THE ECOLOGICAL IMPACT OF THE AMOCO CADIZ OIL SPILL. A PRELIMINARY STUDY PROGRAM HAS BEEN DEVELOPED WITH THE EXTENSIVE ASSISTANCE OF NOAA AND EPA SCIENTISTS DURING THEIR RECENT VISITS TO BREST. AMOCO HAS OFFERED AS MUCH AS \$2 MILLION IN SUPPORT OF A 3-YEAR STUDY IF THE PROGRAM MEETS ITS CRITERIA AS AN INDEPENDENT AND SCIENTIFICALLY COMPETENT EFFORT. CNEXO HAS DECIDED TO UNDERTAKE A STUDY AND DESIRES TO DO SO IN COOPERATION WITH THE USG THROUGH NOAA AS ANOTHER BILATERAL PROJECT IN THE SUCCESSFUL 8-YEAR SERIES OF PROGRAMS UNDERTAKEN BY CNEXO AND NOAA.

2. SOON AFTER THE AMOCO CADIZ ACCIDENT, AMOCO DISCUSSED
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PAGE 02 PARIS 12758 01 OF 02 191723Z

INFORMALLY IN BREST WITH CENXO AND OTHER SCIENTISTS THE PRACTICALITIES OF MOUNTING AN ADEQUATE AND COMPETENT SCIENTIFIC INVESTIGATION OF THE ECOLOGICAL IMPACT. ALTHOUGH ITS REPRESENTATIVES INITIALLY CONSIDERED \$200,000 ADEQUATE, AMOCO NOW IS WILLING TO CONTRIBUTE UP TO \$2 MILLION OVER THREE YEARS FOR A COMPETENTLY DEVELOPED AND MANAGED STUDY. AMOCO HAS

PROPOSED THAT THE STUDY BE MANAGED BY A BINATIONAL COMMITTEE CONSISTING OF FOUR FRENCH AND FOUR AMERICAN VOTING MEMBERS, A NON-VOTING FRENCH COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN AND ONE NON-VOTING AMOCO OBSERVER. THE AMERICAN MEMBERS SUGGESTED BY AMOCO ARE: ROGER ANDERSON, GULF AND SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION; EDWARD GILFILLN, BOWDEN; DR. DAVID PAGE; JOHN LASSITER, UNIVERSITY OF NEW ORLEANS. AMOCO WOULD MAKE THE MONEY AVAILABLE TO THE COMMITTEE TO SUPPORT RESEARCH ACTIVITIES IN FRANCE AND POSSIBLY ELSEWHERE. IN ADDITION AMOCO HAS INDICATED IT WOULD BE PREPARED TO PAY FOR THE TRAVEL AND PER DIEM OF THE AMERICAN COMMITTEE MEMBERS.

3. THE AMOCO OFFER OF FUNDS TO SUPPORT THE STUDY HAS OBVIOUSLY BEEN OF INTEREST TO CENXO AND HAS IN PART STIMULATED CNEXO TO MOVE ON THIS SUBJECT. HOWEVER AFTER CONSULTATIONS WITHIN ITS MINISTRY, CNEXO HAS STATED TO AMOCO THAT IT IS UNABLE TO ACCEPT THE AMOCO OFFER IN ITS CURRENT FORM. CNEXO OFFICERS HAVE ADVISED US THAT IT IS A FIRM DECISION OF THE GOF THAT IT CANNOT ACCEPT DIRECTLY FUNDS FROM AMOCO FOR SUPPORT OF THIS STUDY. IN ADDITION, THE AMERICANS TO PARTICIPATE ON A SCIENTIFIC STEERING COMMITTEE COULD NOT BE APPOINTED BY AMOCO. IN SHORT, CNEXO CHOOSES TO HAVE NO DIRECT DEALINGS WITH AMOCO ON THIS STUDY. UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 03 PARIS 12758 01 OF 02 191723Z

HOWEVER ONCE ESTABLISHED, IT IS PROBABLE THAT AN AMOCO EMPLOYEE COULD BE WELCOMED AS AN OBSERVER TO MEETINGS OF THE SCIENTIFIC STEERING COMMITTEE ASSUMING OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES, WITHIN REASON, WOULD ALSO BE WELCOMED OBSERVERS TO THOSE MEETINGS. CNEXO, IN ITS RESPONSE TO AMOCO, HAS NOT CLOSED OFF COMPLETELY OPPORTUNITIES FOR AMOCO TO CONTRIBUTE FUNDS INDIRECTLY TO THE WORK OF THE STUDY. IN ADDITION, IN ITS CONSULTATIONS IN ITS MINISTRY CNEXO HAS COME TO THE FIRM VIEW THAT SUCH A BINATIONAL STUDY SHOULD BE DONE AS ANOTHER PROJECT UNDER THE 8-YEAR OLD CNEXO-NOAA COOPERATIVE PROGRAM WHICH HAS BEEN ONE OF OUR MOST SUCCESSFUL BILATERAL SCIENTIFIC ACTIVITIES.

4. COMMENT: WE SEE SUCH A STUDY AS APPROPRIATE AND NECESSARY. WE BELIEVE THE PRELIMINARY THAT EXISTS IS A SOUND BASIS FOR AN OPERATIONAL PROGRAM ALTHOUGH IT REQUIRES SIGNIFICANT FURTHER DETAIL WORK. WE BELIEVE THE FRENCH MUST BE IN CONTROL OF THE STUDY THOUGH WE ARE CERTAIN THEY WELCOME AND NEED A LARGE US INPUT. THE CNEXO-NOAA CONNECTION IS TRUSTED AND

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PAGE 01 PARIS 12758 02 OF 02 191720Z
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COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 DOE-15 H-02 INR-10 INT-05
L-03 NSAE-00 OMB-01 PM-05 SP-02 SS-15 STR-07
TRSE-00 ACDA-12 CEQ-01 EPA-04 IO-14 NSF-02
NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 /134 W
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O 191807Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0329

UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 02 PARIS 12758

WELL REGARDED BY THE FRENCH AND CAN EASILY SERVE TO INVOLVE OTHER USG AGENCY PARTICIPATION. THERE IS ALSO THE POSSIBILITY THAT BRITISH OR OTHER SCIENTIFIC INSTITUTIONS WOULD FIND IT TO THEIR INTEREST TO PARTICIPATE AT THEIR OWN EXPENSE IN THE PROGRAM. WE BELIEVE THERE IS CURRENTLY TOO MUCH EFFORT FOCUSED ON A COMMITTEE MAKEUP, VOTING AND SO FORTH AND BELIEVE THAT ATTENTION SHOULD BE PUT ON THE FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF THE SCIENTIFIC PROGRAM. IF EMPHASIS IS NOW PLACED ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF A SCIENTIFIC PROGRAM, IT WOULD PERHAPS BE MORE PRACTICAL TO COMPLETE THE DEFINITION OF THE SCIENTIFIC PROGRAM, IDENTIFY A BOARD OF 5-10 INDIVIDUALS WHO WOULD OVERSEE ITS OPERATION AND THEN TO WELCOME PARTICIPATION BY USG AGENCIES, GOF AGENCIES, UK OR OTHER GOVERNMENT AGENCIES AND OUTSIDE NON-GOVERNMENT LABORATORIES AND INVITE AMOCO TO PROVIDE ITS SUPPORT DIRECTLY TO THE NON-GOVERNMENT LABS. THIS APPROACH WOULD PERMIT CNEXO TO RETAIN CONTROL AND TO NOT HAVE DIRECT DEALINGS WITH AMOCO AND WOULD PERMIT EACH OF THE GOVERNMENT AGENCIES TO HAVE CONTROL OVER THEIR SUPPORTED PROGRAMS.

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PAGE 02 PARIS 12758 02 OF 02 191720Z

5. ACTION REQUESTED: CNEXO HAS ASKED THIS EMBASSY TO DETERMINE NOAA INTEREST IN PRINCIPLE IN WORKING IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THIS PROGRAM. IN PRESENTING ITS VIEWS IN THIS MATTER, CNEXO QUICKLY ADDS THAT IT WOULD MOST WELCOME EPA PARTICIPATION BUT CHOOSES TO DESCRIBE THIS PROJECT AS ANOTHER IN THE ON-GOING CNEXO-NOAA PROGRAM. CNEXO IS NOW ENGAGED IN FURTHER CONSULTATIONS WITHIN ITS MINISTRY AND WE ARE SCHEDULED TO MEET AGAIN WITH ITS OFFICIALS MONDAY AFTERNOON, APRIL 24. WE WOULD WELCOME PRIOR TO THAT TIME A PRELIMINARY RESPONSE ON ANY OR ALL OF THE CHARACTERISTICS OF THIS SUBJECT IAS PRESENTED ABOVE. IT IS OUR UNDERSTANDING THAT CNEXO OFFICIALS (E.G. RIFFAUD) WOULD LIKE TO VISIT WASHINGTON BUT WOULD DO SO ONLY AFTER OUR FURTHER DISCUSSIONS WITH THEM ON APRIL 24. WE WOULD ALSO WELCOME BEING ADVISED OF ANY AMOCO-NOAA OR EPA CONTACTS ON THIS MATTER.
HARTMAN

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Message Attributes

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